

Statement on filing a complaint on an enforced disappearance case for the United Nations' Working Team

SNHR

SYRIAN NETWORK FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

الشبكة السورية لحقوق الإنسان

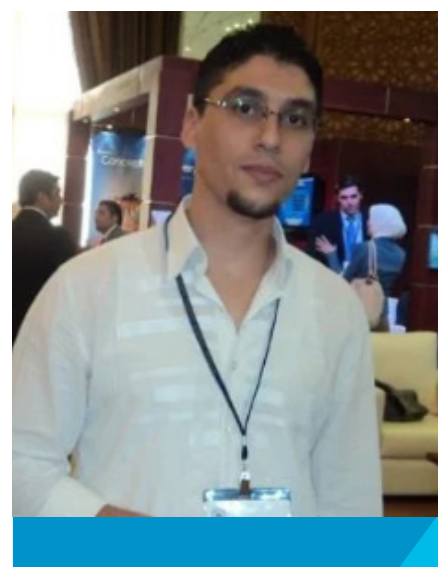
Wednesday, June 10, 2020

The Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR), founded in June 2011, is a non-governmental, independent group that is considered a primary source for the OHCHR on all death toll-related analyses in Syria.

Dr. Ahmad Dahhan Has Been

Forcibly Disappeared Since 2012

The SNHR has briefed the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances on the case of Dr. Ahmad Muhammad Walid Dahhan, born in 1981, who was specializing in gynecology at the time of his arrest. Dr. Dahhan, who came from al Qadam neighborhood in Damascus city, was arrested on March 7, 2012, while he was near al Sehhi Restaurant in al Salehiya neighborhood in Damascus city by personnel from the Syrian Regime's Palestine Branch, which is affiliated with the Military Intelligence Branch, and was taken to the Palestine Branch's headquarters in Damascus city. His fate remains unknown to the SNHR as well as to his family.



The Syrian authorities have denied any connection with the disappearance of Dr. Ahmad Dahhan. The SNHR has been unable to determine his fate, as have his family members, who fear that they may be arrested and tortured by regime personnel themselves if they continue to ask about his whereabouts and fate, as has happened in numerous previous cases. SNHR has called on the United Nations Committee on Enforced Disappearance to intervene and to demand that the Syrian authorities release Dr. Dahhan immediately, as well as to expedite investigations into the fate of thousands of other forcibly disappeared citizens whose whereabouts and current conditions must also be revealed.

Although the Syrian government is not a party to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearances, it is indisputably a party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Arab Charter on Human Rights. Enforced disappearance constitutes a violation of both instruments.



SNHR also confirmed that there are well-founded fears that many of those forcibly disappeared by the Syrian regime since 2011 may have been subjected to torture and possibly killed in regime detention, with the number of citizens forcibly disappeared by the regime continuing to grow.





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